



Allandale Neighbor

Feb 2016
Vol 31, Issue 1

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 4,500 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The ANA List-serv, Voice of the Neighbors

Laura Beck

Many of us in Allandale have a love-hate relationship with our list-serv (or Listserv, or Yahoo group, or whatever you call it). Surely it does keep us informed and shares helpful neighborhood information, in

near real time. But it can also bog us down in play-by-play detail of a lost pet, or a few too many opinions on lawn service or roofing options.

Lately, we know there has been a lot of talk about the fact that, for some months now, the list-serv has been in “full moder-

ation” mode, meaning some neighbor volunteers are quickly and efficiently reviewing posts, comments, and requests to join before things are approved. As most have seen, especially with a recent “Anderson (High School) Stinks” comment being

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Happy 60th Anniversary Gullett!

Laura Beck

2015 marked 60 years for Lamar Middle School, and 2016 is Gullett Elementary's 60th anniversary. HAPPY 60th GECKOS YOUNG AND OLD!

We will be celebrating all year with events and activities at the school (teaser alert: there will be a fun celebration for all end of September), as well as profiles on some of the first students at Gullett and the teachers who had years of impact on those in their classrooms. Watch this newsletter and the Gullett website, <http://gullettgeckos.com/>, under the 60th Anniversary tab, for more information and fun

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Please Join ANA, Renew Your ANA Membership Today!

Editor

We wanted to remind you we are in process of building a new website for ANA, to go live around April 1. This website will include a better, easier payment process, including the options for automatic renewals! Yay! Along with the new website, we will be increasing the ANA membership costs to \$20 per household and \$10 for seniors. This is our first increase in seven years. And you can lock into current rates—\$15 per household, \$7 for seniors—if you renew and pay before March 31. Just go to <http://www.ana.org>.

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ANA MEETINGS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming ANA meetings and our invited guests

March 2- General Membership Meeting

- Council Member Leslie Pool
- Cheryl Bolin with PARD to provide updates on Northwest Park Pool

April 6

- Burnet Road Corridor (tentative)

The Allandale Neighbor
is published bimonthly by the
Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA)

www.allandaleneighbor.com

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DESIGN Cathy Savage
PRINTER Worley Printing

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
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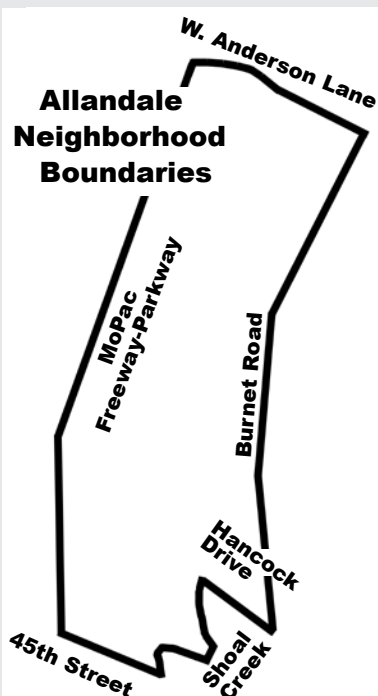
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in March and
September.

Committees

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President's Letter

Mike Nink, 512-656-0058 or allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

ANA activity slowed down in December and January, but now that the winter hibernation is over it's time to get back to work. We have a lot of good news and a lot going on...

Wal-Mart Debt

I made mention in December that we were in the process of making the final payment on debt that dated back to 2007. I'm excited to report that we have now completely retired the debt which was originally over \$87,000. Thank you to all the neighbors who have donated over the years to help pay down and pay off the debt.

ANA Membership

Not a week goes by when I don't talk to a neighbor who is unaware of our neighborhood association. Yes, we do have one and we're working hard to keep Allandale a place that we all want to live and enjoy. We are in full swing for our annual membership drive so be on the look out for an email from our committee chair Kyle McAden about renewing your dues. You can also renew on our website as well. Remember that the dues will be going up after April 1. We held our first member event in January— the popular Tree Pruning Workshop with consulting arborist Don Gardner; thank you to the Laura and Caroline who helped make that event possible as well as Shoal Creek Nursery for once again hosting us. Kyle is also working on coordinating the annual Neighborhood Garage Sale in May and the Fourth of July Parade in July— he's always looking for volunteers.

Safety

Our Safety committee chair, Laura DiCarlo, has been working tirelessly on keeping our neighborhood safe and clean so if you see her please give her a big THANK YOU. While we were all shopping during the holidays Laura was working hard to raise our awareness and to keep the police informed of all the package thefts in the neighborhood so that the perpetrators would hopefully be caught. In addition, Laura and her team have spent countless hours cleaning graffiti from the neighborhood including several recurring instances at the Pony fields. If you are interested in being a block captain or if you have any questions regarding neighborhood watch or safety please let Laura know.

Communications

Laura Beck spends countless hours creating this awesome newsletter and she is also heading up our new website which we are happy to announce will be launching in April. We'll be sending out more announcements about the website as the date gets closer including some very cool features that will allow neighbors to create groups to find other neighbors with similar interest such as Bridge, Yoga, Running, etc.

BCRC

I would like to thank Kata Carbone for her years of dedicated service to the Bull Creek Road Coalition and welcome Rangleigh Hirsh who will be serving as chair of our BCRC committee. The discussions between the Bull Creek Road Coalition and the developer MileStone continue to

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be a very fluid process so we'll continue to provide updates as those become available.

Austin Oaks PUD

In addition to the work that Kata has been doing with BCRC, she has also been heading up our Austin Oaks committee.

This has been a long process with many community input and design meetings and countless hours. The process is beginning to come to a close but for a full review of the Austin Oaks PUD please visit <http://www.allandaleneighbor.com/allandale/2016/01/austin-oaks-pud.html#more>.

Get Involved

If you're interested in serving on any committee, please contact me (512-656-0058, michaelnink@hotmail.com) or any of the ANA EC members or committee chairs to volunteer. ❖

Renew Your ANA Membership Today!

Continued from front page

allandaleneighbor.com/ and click on the pay now button in the top right.

A reminder on why are we raising the rates?

There is increasing need for the ANA, defending this neighborhood, our lots, our trees, our lovely lifestyle against big growth that doesn't always support what we believe we all love about Allandale. We will continue to face big issues like Austin Oaks or Bull Creek PUDs, or CodeNext and its challenges to SF2, our zoning, our deed restrictions. ANA is not against growth or density, not against STR or ADUs, or mixed use properties IF DONE RIGHT.

It's just that often, the rush –and money– of development and growth doesn't factor in critical things this ANA defends on Allandale's behalf. Your membership, your dues help ANA have a strong voice at City Hall, help Allandale be a neighborhood that grows the way we want it to grow. We need your help and support!

A reminder on why should I be an official (paying) member of ANA?

Without paying your dues, you will still receive this newsletter every other month, and have access to our ANA website and Facebook page. 4,500 homes comprise Allandale and only about 10%

are ANA members, but only about 500 homes paid dues in 2015. An even smaller number of neighbors volunteer their time and efforts on committees, as block captains, to put together our Fourth of July parade, to attend city hall meetings, or to put together this newsletter, among countless other things. A small, simple, and affordable way you can support your neighbors who volunteer their time and talents is by paying annual dues as an ANA member. Your membership, your dues help ANA be the neighborhood we want it to be. We need your help and support! Please renew your ANA membership today. Thank you! ❖

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The ANA List-serv, Voice of the Neighbors

Continued from front page

posted, very little, if anything, is being rejected. And this volunteer's time, and willingness to help keep the list-serv going is very much appreciated.

The ANA EC made the decision to move to full moderation after a summer of some tense interactions and attacks on the neighbor volunteer who was moderating at the time. The list-serv is the responsibility of the ANA, including a duty to maintain its integrity and ensure mutual respect of all participants.

The list-serv is a service of the ANA and is for messages of a general interest to Allandale, which may include discussions and opinions of issues affecting the neighborhood. The posting guidelines, which

were made public from inception and are shared with every new sign up to the list-serv, explain that what is not OK is anything insulting or inflammatory, an unsolicited advertisement, or one-on-one messages or chats between individuals.

The list-serv etiquette is to communicate with respect and for postings to be about issues, not individuals. The entire purpose of the list-serv, from the first time it was created and turned on by ANA in 2001, has been to provide neighborhood information, facilitate neighborhood communication. We have stayed true to that, even in full moderation.

Of the nearly 1700 "members," there are only about 200 neighbors posting; and again, most conversations and comments are positive and healthy and fine. We strive to have Allandale be open and inclusive of a variety of voices, opinions and perspectives. Full moderation has not changed

that. Full moderation also has enabled person-to-person chats to be moved to personal messages versus public posts, which helps curb the volume of content.

However, there has been enough conversation and concern about this approach that, at the next general meeting, on Wednesday March 2, 2016, we will open the issue of Moderation up to a vote. Democracy can decide if we move from Full Moderation to return to more relaxed moderation as had been the approach in the past. Any neighbor who is a paid member of the ANA may vote. Majority will determine how the list-serv is moderated moving forward.

So mark your calendars now for Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m., at NW Recreation center for the next ANA General Meeting, and make sure your ANA dues are paid up, and cast your vote! Thanks! ♦

Happy 60th Anniversary Gullett!

Continued from front page

profiles. Up on the website right now is a story on Mrs. Edith Ussery, who taught Kindergarten at Gullett for 17 years. And featured here is our first of Gullett's first students, Charles

Tischler, as written by two of Gullett's current fifth graders, Thea Cahoon and Megan McHorse. ♦



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Neighbor Spotlight: Gullett's First Students: Charles Tischler

Thea Cahoon and Megan McHorse, fifth graders at Gullett

Mr. Charles Tischler was one of the first kids who went to Gullett when it first opened in 1956. He started in first grade and went through sixth grade, as Gullett, at that time, went through sixth. At recess, the boys played flag football, then later on baseball. The playground was just a wide open field with one or two trees, no track, and no soccer fields. His best friend was David, and they're still close today. Once his mother showed him that the houses still up on Anderson Lane, when he was a boy, were the houses that slaves used during the Civil War!

When Mr. Tischler went to Gullett it was very new and modern but there was no fifth grade ramp, no gym, no portables, no playground, and no animals or gardens! But then there was still the cafeteria. The only animal they had was a neighbor's beagle who doubled as the crossing guard. At this time the big things were the Gullett Halloween Carnival and

the fourth grade play –The Little Red Hen– where Mr. Tischler played the frog.

His father was a veterinarian, so he got very attached to animals. When Mr. Tischler was little he wanted to be a game warden and help out with the Lake Buchanan Bald Eagles. And he did it! He does, still today, help with the Eagles, but the big game warden idea turned into a career of a photographer and writer. After Gullett he went to Lamar, McCallum, then went to UT! He even served a burger to LBJ at Ezee's (but it was called 2J's back then). His daughter went to Gullett, and his grandson Davis



is in the second grade now at Gullett. Three generations!

He told us to pay attention to what he was about to say, as it was so important: "Gullett is an extremely special place, it's not normal. When you grow up you'll look back and see this place got you ready for whatever you want to be!" ❖

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Allandale Outside: Gardening Tips to Clip and Save

Ginger Soule

Is it going to freeze tonight? Here's the gardener's rule of thumb: At 10:00 p.m., if the sky is clear, no wind, and temperature is 45 degrees or below, expect frost. Should cloud cover come in overnight, that will stop radiational cooling. Likewise cloud cover at 10:00 p.m. may drift away overnight, allowing more cooling (here we hope our weather forecasts are correct). If it's already below 45 degrees at 10:00, it will definitely freeze. Again, we hope our forecasts are accurate as to how cold it will get and how much protection your vulnerable plants need. Remember, wind can magnify the effects of temperature.

Keep in mind that members of the solanacea family (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant) are semi-tropical so do not tolerate temperatures below 45 degrees –not just freezing temperatures. Temperatures below 45 will cause stems to “lignify” or harden the tissues so that the plant will not grow vigorously enough to reach its full potential

height thus reducing production. Potatoes are also solanaceas but will stand more cold than the others though their foliage will freeze so they need some protection. Yes, it's nearing time to plant potatoes. Get organic or they won't grow. A technique for planting potatoes here: dig a hole twelve inches deep or more, place a one gallon pot with the bottom cut out into ground so the soil won't cave in. Plant the calloused over potato piece with an “eye” deep and barely cover. As the potato grows, gradually fill in the soil around stem until filled. It's easy to cover the top of the pot for frost, then carefully remove the pot as growth reaches top— by then we should be past frost.

Much has been written about differing conditions during different quarters of the moon, so how does one determine whether a crescent moon is indicating first or third quarter?

Try this *mnemonic*: D O C: in first quarter, the rounded exterior points to

the right; “O” indicates full moon; last quarter shows the curve to the left. Simple, no?

So what's important about the different quarters? Tidal forces of the moon affect more than just ocean tides: transplanting (including veggies) that produce above ground crops get a little boost in upward growth during the first and second quarters when planting from seeds. During the third quarter, seeded root crops (carrots, beets, turnips, etc.) and bulbs (flowering as well as all members of the onion family) as well as all transplants benefit from downward pull helping to get the root system going quickly. In the fourth quarter (no moon showing) growth slows so this is a good time to prune and clean up, not to plant. Serious organic and biodynamic farmers pay great attention to this rule of thumb. Not only does this affect plant growth, it also affects growth rate of hair and fingernails. One of my sons told me he tried this and didn't have

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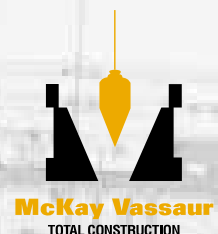
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to get haircuts quite as often.

If desiring to plant a fruit tree, "chill hours" is a critical consideration. Trees grown in our climate need fewer chill hours than those for the north. Local nurseries are best equipped to advise on chill hours appropriate to our area. If you plant a tree that requires more chill hours than our area typically gets, you won't get fruit set. If the tree you select needs too few chill hours, it may bloom too early, causing the newly developing fruit to freeze unless you can protect it adequately!

If you have fruit trees and get little worms in the fruit, this is the plum curculio larva. Dispose of any worm-containing fruit. If it drops to the ground, the larvae

will pupate underground and the moth will emerge to lay eggs on the fruit next year. Keep the ground around the tree well mulched as well. These techniques should prevent need for spraying.

Ever hear of "Companion Planting?" Certain plants have a distinctly beneficial effect on some other plants, while others have an inhibiting effect. There's a long list, so I'll limit this to a few of the most dramatic examples. "Roses love garlic," so garlic planted around roses help repel insects that like roses. Onions and lettuces go well together. Never plant onion family members near beans and peas as onions will inhibit their growth. Beebalm (Monarda) improves growth and flavor of

tomatoes. Tomatoes also love carrots as well as Basil. Beets like bush beans, onions, lettuces, most members of cabbage family and kohlrabi but are "turned off" by pole beans. Strawberries grow best among spinach plants. Ornamental sweet peas are poison so if you grow both edible and ornamental peas, keep one variety in front yard and one in back so they cannot cross pollinate, thereby making the edible peas poisonous. I've done this successfully for years (they are insect pollinated).

I'll stop here as an entire column could be devoted to details of companion planting. As always, happy gardening in Allandale. ❖



RED, WHITE & YOU

ANA needs volunteers to help with the coordination of the Fourth of July Parade. Volunteers are needed for:

- Parade Logistics: set-up / on-site coordination of attendees, floats, groups, etc
- Event Logistics: Pre-event organization such as securing fire truck, police, vendors, permits - all information and processes provided.
- Parade Judges
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About Me:

- I have lived in Allandale my entire life and went to Gullett, Lamar and McCallum
- I have a Business degree from The University of Texas
- I owned Tinka's Dance Studios and taught thousands of Austinites to dance from age 3 to 83 for over three decades
- I still live in Allandale and can be very hands on to help you buy the home of your dreams or sell your home for the best price possible



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More Allandale Outside!

Something Wicking This Way Comes: How to Build a Water-Saving Wicking Garden

Robert E. Mace aka A Dude on Daugherty

Although turf receives by far the greatest volume of outdoor residential watering, vegetable gardens, on a square foot basis, are the thirstiest of outdoor uses, requiring 70 percent more water than St. Augustine. So what if I told you that there was a way to not only dramatically reduce water use for gardening, but to also dramatically reduce your time watering when it's a 100 degrees out *and* dramatically improve the ergonomics of gardening (something I refer to as "Beer-friendly Gardening")? Through the miracle of capillary forces and feed stores, this is all possible!

We've all experienced the magic of capillary forces. If you need a quick reminder, dip the tip of a paper towel into a glass of water, hold it there, and watch the water wick upwards. What you are seeing are capillary forces in action where the surface tension of water in combination to the wettability and pore structure of the media (in this case, the paper towel) draw the water upward in opposition to gravity.

There's a type of garden—called a wicking garden—that employs these capillary

forces to water its plants from underneath rather than from above. In essence, an artificial aquifer is used as a reservoir for water with the soil acting like a paper towel pulling water towards a plant's roots. This has many water-conserving and gardening advantages. By watering from the bottom, evaporation from surface watering is eliminated. If water is used by a plant, the capillary forces automatically engage to replace that water, thus ensuring a consistent supply without requiring a gardener's constant attention. And as long as you have control over the water reservoir, over watering is eliminated.

To build a wicking garden, you need containment for your water reservoir, an overflow to prevent the soil from becoming saturated, a way to keep roots and soil out of your reservoir, and soil to grow your plants. Since 37 percent of my waking hours are spent figuring out how to avoid digging holes, I used livestock-watering troughs bought at the local feed store for my gardens.

Here's how to do it:

Buy a livestock-watering trough (or similarly appropriate container). I bought four to meet our gardening needs. Each one had a different diameter (for aesthetic reasons: Texas urban rancher chic) but all of them were two feet tall. You don't want to have the soil too thick on top of the water reservoir because capillary forces can only pull the water up so far. Although I used livestock troughs, you can use any water-proof container to build a wicking garden. Some folks use thick black plastic buried beneath their elevated beds as a reservoir (but that requires digging holes...).

Drill a one-inch hole halfway up the side of the trough. This is the overflow to keep the water from saturating the soil. I placed it just above where I planned to place the pea gravel.

Install slotted access pipe in the bottom of the trough. This pipe is used to efficiently refill the water reservoir. Since I didn't have graduate students available, I used duct tape to hold the vertical fill tube

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MIN PRICE SOLD	\$277,500	\$300,000	\$310,000

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of January 12, 2016. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.

JASONHEFFRON.COM



in place. This step may not be necessary: I've noticed in my system that the infiltration rate of the soil is high enough to refill the tank from surface application of water.

Fill the trough halfway with pea gravel. The pea gravel is to support the soil that will be placed on top. You could use gravel-gravel and perhaps sand, but you don't want to go too chunky as you want something fine enough to support capillary forces between your water table and the soil and you don't want to go too small since you want water storage as well as making it easy for water flow in your reservoir when you fill it. Don't fill gravel above your overflow hole.

Insert the overflow pipe. I went a little fancy here with a PVC elbow, but a simple hole with screen on it may be enough.

Cover the pea gravel with landscaping cloth. This provides a barrier to roots as well as prevents soil from moving into the pea gravel.

Fill the rest of the tank with soil. Leave a little space at the top to capture rainfall and for mulch.

Fill the water reservoir to overflow. We use water from our rainwater tanks for this.

Plant delicious veggies. Tomatoes and peppers LOVE this setup.

Drink a beer or libation of your choice.

Speaking of drinking beer, I mentioned earlier that this is Beer-friendly Gardening. An added benefit of using a wicking garden as described is that you also have raised beds tall enough that you don't have to bend too far over to tend to your garden. In fact, it's so convenient you don't have to set down your beer to garden. And with enough mulch, there's very little weeding.

As far as water use is concerned, my experience shows that this setup uses a lot less water than conventional gardening. I don't have specific numbers to report, but during the less-warm shoulder seasons (spring and fall), I only have to top off the water reservoirs once a week. During the thick of summer, I top off the tanks twice

a week. Compared to my previous traditional in-ground gardening efforts, I estimate that my wicking gardens use about 20 percent of the water that I used before (watering two days a week instead of daily [during the heat of the summer] and using half as much water when watering).



The livestock trough with slotted tubing and a non-grad-student-supported vertical-fill tube.

So there you have it: Not only a way to use less water but to make gardening easier and more fun!

This article was previously printed in substantially the same form in the Texas Water Conservation Association's Confluence. ❖

David Starry, Realtor, CRS



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Bug Off! Leaf Cutting Ants

Wizzie Brown

Leaf cutting ants are reddish-brown with three pairs of spines on the thorax and one pair of spines on the back of the head. Workers come in various sizes, but can be up to half an inch long. Mounds can become large and are sometimes mistaken for fire ant mounds. Leaf cutter ant mounds have a central opening and often a crater shape at the top.

Leaf cutting ants typically forage when the temperatures are cooler, such as at night or in the morning. They can sometimes cause complete defoliation of plants or small trees overnight. These ants remove leaves and buds from plants in the landscape. The ants do not eat the plant pieces, but take the pieces back to their colony and feed them to a fungus garden. They tend a particular species of fungus and weed out any other fungus from the garden.

Colonies may exist for years and can exceed over two million ants. It is not unusual for a single colony to cover an acre of land. Colonies are usually found in well drained, sandy or loamy soils.

Plants can be temporarily protected by using spray adhesives around the base of the plant. The adhesive would need to be refreshed often when dirt or debris accumulates. Temporary protection can also be provided with contact insecticidal spray or dusts labeled for "ants." If mounds are located in an area, the bait product labeled for leaf cutter ants, Amdro Ant Block, can be broadcast with a hand-held spreader around the mound area. If no mounds are seen, then residual sprays and dusts labeled for "ants" can be used along foraging trails and around openings.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com. ❖

Allandale Eating

Laura Beck

Well, the eats just keep getting better here in Allandale. While we did say goodbye, pretty abruptly, to Fork & Taco, the rest of the news is good. The old Church's Chicken on Burnet at the White Horse light seems to be an El Chilito, coming this spring. So while we mourn no more Liver and Gizzard plates or all dark meat specials, good tacos are a-comin! LaLa's is back open after its renovation, though perhaps a little "too hipster" per some Gullett Dads.

Three Little Pigs at the Poodle Dog (I will never call it the Aristocrat) is supposed to be really good, open Tuesday through Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to midnight. This gourmet food truck relocated from the East Side to Allandale – we always like that! Take a listen to this– and bring your appetite: Pork Belly Slider with maple soy glaze, sliced green apple, and fried onion with a side of sesame coleslaw OR Crack-

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photo by allison narro

lin' Meatloaf wrapped in bacon with cheese grits and collard greens OR Asian Fried Chicken with sweet chili sauce, wasabi mayo, and sesame coleslaw. Yes, please, one of each please. I'll be by soon!

And, while it's actually "across the tracks" on the west side, I've heard amazing things about Saffron on Far West Boulevard, in the strip mall, by the Boulevard. Indian fusion, one of few places with real Nepalese food. Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, lunchtime is a buffet, perhaps a great way to try a little of everything.

But let's talk Bufalina and Barley Swine, now open and hopping in the hood. Wow to that parking lot!

Bufalina, or what they are calling Bufalina Due for the Burnet location, is a pizza joint, but really more for grownups. From a great experience at the original location on the east side, I know their hook is their amazing wood burning oven, that is more than 900 degrees, so cooks each pizza in about 90 seconds. Out comes a slightly charred Neapolitan pie from heaven. MMMM. The menu is

pretty limited and basic, but what's on it gives you all you need! Pick a salad or other starter, and then fight with yourself on which kind of pie to order, if only you could get 'em all! We had the Calabrese (their salami IS pepperoni) and a Sausage and Fennel not currently on this menu. Both awesome! For drinks, it's beer and wine only but lots of great options. Only open Wednesday through Sunday nights from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. and with a really small space and few tables, you have to plan ahead. But well worth finding time for! Note, no gluten free pizzas yet.

As for Barley Swine, this one I must admit, I don't think I'm enough of a foodie for. Seriously! I've always wanted to go to the original location on South Lamar, and tried at least four different times, all failures, the wait always too long. So we tried their other store, Odd Duck, instead and loved every single little thing we ate. EVERYTHING. All absolutely amazing. Mouth watering right now thinking about it.

So you would assume I'd love Barley Swine too, right? Time will tell, we will

check it out. But reviewing the menu (which changes fairly regularly) says you really gotta dig eccentric food to enjoy Barley Swine. I'm talking lots of mushroom types (oyster, shiitake), lots of fish in many dishes (mackerel, red snapper, octopus), and goodies like pig skin noodles, cricket miso mustard, bone marrow and pig foot fried rice, which I can't say I've ever had a hankering for.

I will report back after my visit, and let you know if my elementary school level palate was pleasantly surprised, or if I begged my husband to drive me through Taco Cabana afterward!

Open seven days a week, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. (and later on Friday and Saturday), when we stopped in around 7:00 pm on a Sunday, we could have sat right down, inside or outside! Barley Swine does take reservations, just call 512-394-8150. And here's what I don't think many know – Burnet Rd is not their second location, it is their only location! The South Lamar store is closed for now, perhaps to be open for private events in the future. ❖

Have you joined ANA's Newsgroup? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/> to sign up.

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Gullett Good News

Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other place and our Geckos are in the midst of a very busy and exciting spring semester. Our school is about to turn 60 years old and the buildup is underway to a big celebration that will take place in September. Stories from Gullett's early days—as told by both teachers and students are beginning to be posted on the school's website at <http://gullettgeckos.com/gullett-elementary-60th-anniversary>.

Gullett is getting a major library renovation for its birthday! A very well designed plan for the library expansion is going to be built over the coming months. Construction is set to begin on June 1 and go through the end of October. The new library will have cool new furniture and shelving in addition to great space and lots of natural light. The library will be temporarily housed in a portable while construction is going on.

Congratulations are in order for our fabulous third grade writing teacher and No Place for Hate Coalition sponsor, Missy Russell. She has been named Gullett's teacher of the 2015-2016 school year and she deserves every bit of this honor for her dedication to our Geckos. Ms. Russell has led in many campus and district initiatives. Some of her other involvement includes Austin Literacy

Academy (ALA) Mentor, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Campus Facilitator, Creative Learning Initiative (CLI) Leadership Team Advocate, Campus Philanthropy Coordination with Legacy of Giving. Way to go, Ms. Russell! You earned it and we are all proud of you!

Party alert! Viva Gullett, our annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction, is almost here. This year's event will be Sunday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Contigo. It will be a fun grown-up night out to benefit our school. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at the Gullett website at a discounted rate of \$30 through February 19. If you know a business that would like to donate an item or sponsor the event, please contact Christy Bell at bell.christy27@gmail.com. And a high five for Christy and many other parents for their skill and efforts in putting together a great event year after year.

Veggies are cool and delish and the kids know it. The cafeteria now offers a salad bar option for lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays where students have the

opportunity to choose up to four vegetables and two ounces of protein (meat or meat alternative), served on greens, with a grain option on the side. Some of the veggies come from local farms. Speaking of veggies, the Grounds Team's annual spring plant sale will be held at the school on Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 a.m.—noon. It's a great way to pick up landscaping plants, vegetables and mulch to get your spring garden into gear.

Upcoming Events

March 6: Viva Gullett Spring Fling and Silent Auction, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Contigo

March 14-18: Spring Break

March 25: Student and staff holiday ❖



ANA Executive Committee Meetings

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All About Lamar

Gina Ross

On Monday, January 25, Lamar hosted the annual Peace through Pie event as part of the schoolwide No Place for Hate campaign. No Place for Hate is a nationwide initiative that aims to make schools a place of unity, respect and character and to eliminate bullying and bigotry. No Place for Hate helps to create and sustain inclusive school environments where all students feel valued and have the opportunity to succeed.

Lamar's Peace through Pie event was organized by ELA teacher/NP4H Coordi-

nator Dorothy Winburne, Social and Emotional Learning facilitator/AVID teacher Constance Ledesma, and Kerren Campa, parent and member of Lamar's SEL Steering Committee. Area businesses as well as Lamar families donated pizza and pies to feed the students and families who participated. There were performances by student musicians and dancers. It was a wonderful evening highlighting diversity and acceptance within our Lamar community.

Applications for the Fine Arts Academy have come in and a new batch of Scotties is getting excited about starting sixth grade at Lamar next year. The Lamar Band hosted Instrument Discovery Day



on January 30, 2016, where incoming Scotties got to try out different instruments to see what fit them best. Soon, prospective students will begin shadowing current students to see what a day at Lamar is like. We are always excited to welcome visitors to Lamar!

It's almost time for our spring musical, Cinderella! Cinderella performances will be February 24–27, 2016, in the Lamar cafetorium and tickets are available to the public. Come see how hard the students have been working! ❖

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Jill Whiteside Schavrdá

Late start dates: February 25 and April 7

Student holiday / staff

development: February 15

Spring Break: March 14–18

Student and staff holiday: March 25



Fine Arts Academy Dates

February 25, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

March 8 and 9, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

March 10, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

March 31, 7:30 p.m.

April 5, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

April 8 and 9, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

April 12, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

April 16, 7:00–9:30 p.m.

steel drums show – cafeteria

piano recital – MAC

guitar concert – MAC

band concert (Pre UIL) – MAC

orchestra concert (Pre UIL) – FABT

dance performance – MAC

choir pre-UIL concert – MAC

orchestra fundraiser concert – MAC

Continued on page 14

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It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Continued from page 13

McCallum Choice Sheet Night for rising ninth graders

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 MAC Theater

MacKnightly News

Would you like to receive regular notifications about McCallum High School events and important dates? Visit <http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/macknightly.htm> for information on how to subscribe to the MacKnightly News.

Friends of McCallum Fine Arts Academy Meetings: McCallum HS Cafeteria

Monday, March 21, 6:00– 7:00 p.m.
Please check for additions or changes /
Fine Arts Calendar Link: http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/fine_arts/calendar.htm

MacTheatre Dates

**TITANIC – Hear and Experience
Titanic like never before**

McCallum Arts Center, February 25 – March 6

Not to be confused with the blockbuster film released in the same year as the musical's premiere, the TITANIC THE MUSICAL shows the final hours of a group of the fateful ship's passengers in a brand new story unconnected with the tale of Jack and Rose. The rarely-performed musical TITANIC examines the causes, the conditions and the characters involved in this ever-fascinating drama.

Music by Maury Yeston; book by Peter Stone

UIL ONE ACT PLAY: MARIE ANTOINETTE April 1–3

Before Britney Spears and Justin Bieber, there was Marie Antoinette; by David Adjmi

In David Adjmi's contemporary take on the young queen of France, Marie is a conception created by a society that values extravagance and artifice. But France's love

affair with the royals sours as revolution brews, and for Marie, the political suddenly becomes very personal. From the light and breezy banter at the palace to the surging chants of "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité!" in the streets, Marie Antoinette holds a mirror up to our contemporary society that might just be entertaining itself to death.

For more information, show times and ticket purchase, please visit: <http://www.mactheatre.com/>

McCallum Athletics Dates

Basketball:

February 16: Boys Basketball at Lanier
Fresh 5:30 p.m., JV 6:30 p.m., varsity 8:00 p.m.

Soccer:

Boys Soccer at Crockett at Burger Tuesday, February 16, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Girls Soccer at Bastrop Tuesday, February 16, 5:30– 9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

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Boys Soccer vs Eastside at House Park
Friday, February 26, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Girls Soccer vs Crockett at House Park
Saturday February 27, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., JV 9:00 a.m., varsity 10:45 a.m.

Boys Soccer at Bastrop Tuesday March 1, 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Girls Soccer at Reagan at Noack #1 Friday, March 4, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Boys Soccer vs Reagan at House Park
Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., JV 9:00 a.m., varsity 10:45 a.m.

Girls soccer vs Eastside Memorial at House Park Monday, March 7, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Boys Soccer at Travis at Noack #1 Friday, March 11, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Girls Soccer at LBJ at Nelson Field Saturday, March 12, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., JV 9:00 a.m., varsity 10:45 a.m.

Boys Soccer vs Cedar Creek at Noack #1 Mon, March 21, 5:30–9:00 p.m., JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7:15 p.m.

Swimming:
February 6 and 7 – UIL Region 5-5A

Swim Meet @ Texas A&M University
February 20 and 21 – UIL State Swim Meet @ UT

Bowling Knights at Mel's Lone Star Lanes:
Friday, February 19, 5:00–7:30 p.m.
1010 N. Austin Ave Georgetown, TX 78626

Check for additions and updates at the General Calendar Link: <http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/2015-2016%20AUSTIN%20ISD%20CALENDAR.pdf> ❖

More Mac: MacTheatre Presents *Titanic* the Musical Feb. 25 - Mar. 6, 2016

Amy Hufford

You must get on this ship before it sails! Enjoy a top-notch musical right here in the neighborhood as MacTheatre proudly presents the epic musical *Titanic*, the 1997 Tony Award winner for Best Musical.

Not to be confused with the blockbuster film, *Titanic* the musical follows characters named for actual cast and crew members in a story unconnected with the tale of Jack and Rose of movie fame. The show touches on the early 20th century's rigid social structure, immigration, and the previously unchecked notion of industrial progress at all costs.

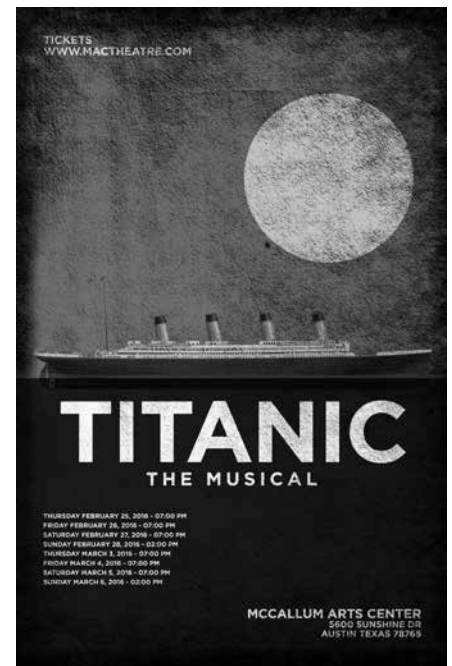
MacTheatre's productions are known for their professionalism, technical presentation and entertainment value. All shows will be in the McCallum Arts Center, at 5600 Sunshine Drive in central Austin. The show runs Thursdays – Sundays from February 25 through March 6. Sunday shows are at 2:00 p.m.; all other

shows are at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or at <https://mactheatre.thunder-tix.com/events>. Student tickets are \$7; adults are \$16 and seniors are \$12. See what's playing the rest of the season here: <http://mactheatre.com>.

Austin Entertainment Weekly recently named MacTheatre as the most outstanding academic theater in Austin along with St. Edwards University; the other finalists were all college programs! More information on MacTheatre's 62nd season can be found at <http://mactheatre.com>.

MacTheatre is one of many programs in McCallum's Fine Arts Academy, which was named as the number one 2015 National GRAMMY Signature School. As Austin ISD's district-wide fine arts intensive high school program, the Fine Arts Academy at McCallum High



School provides an exemplary arts education program for ninth through twelfth grade students to pursue an accelerated arts curriculum as fine arts majors. ❖



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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo, ANA Safety Chair, lhdicarlo@yahoo.com

Activities in which the Safety Committee has been engaged since the December newsletter:

- Learned of and disseminated crime/safety information
- Cleaned up and reported graffiti at the PONY field
- Discussed the possibility of sidewalks on Great Northern Boulevard

Crime Stats

Since the December newsletter there has been just one burglary of residence (BOR), one attempted BOR, and one burglary of vehicle (BOV) that was on a residential street. However, there were 14 BOVs on commercial streets and at Northwest Park (two on Anderson Lane, five on Burnet, two on Hancock, one on North Loop, and four at Northwest Park).

Please remember to never leave a purse, wallet, computer, or other valuables showing in your vehicle, not just when you're

parked at home over night but also when you are in a store, restaurant, or at the park.

Listserv and Citizen Input

The topic of crime/safety came up on the Allandale list-serv in these areas:

An over-the-phone IRS scam in which they say they have a judgement against you; best to announce to the caller you know it is a scam and hang up

Car windows were shot out (likely with a pellet gun) in Wooten and there have been several other cases since November in 78757 and 78741 – see <http://kxan.com/2015/11/05/apd-has-no-leads-after-a-dozen-car-windows-were-shot-out/>

Lexus coupe that was parked in several places over multiple days turned out to belong to a neighbor

Graffiti

As I mentioned in both the October and December articles, graffiti continues to be an ongoing battle, especially at the Northwest Park PONY baseball field. The area around the field was tagged twice in December, and while I made police reports and communicated with a detective

assigned to one of the cases, the bottom line is that without any leads there isn't much the police can do. January was graffiti free at the pony field so maybe we're going to get a break from tagging for a while.

Commander's Forum

There was a commander's forum January 26 that I was unable to attend, but the next one will be at McCallum High School April 5 at 6:30 p.m. I encourage you all to go to meet Commander Kurtis Krause, get to know our APD District Representative Officer Josh Metteauer and the other District Representatives in Region 1, learn safety tips, crime stats, and find out about the initiatives going on in our area.

Sidewalks on Great Northern Blvd (GNB)?

For those of you who walk on GNB you know how difficult it is to negotiate the pedestrian and bike path along the stretch that doesn't have a sidewalk. Resident Phil Fletcher was nearly hit by a bicyclist last month and decided to reach out to Leslie Pool's office and me about the possibility of sidewalks. Michael Gaudini, policy advi-

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sor for Leslie Pool, responded that while installation of sidewalks along GNB would be a worthy project there are many worthy competing projects. Mr. Gaudini offered to come visit the site and bring management to discuss ideas. He also noted that Councilwoman Pool has the March ANA general meeting on her schedule.

I reached out to COA program consul-

tant Annick Beaudet, who used to manage Austin's bike and trail program who relayed to me a long history of looking into possibilities on GNB such as a crushed granite trail. Beaudet pointed out that sidewalks were installed on SCB for walkers and that GNB is more appropriate for cyclists. She noted that behavior is easier to change that infrastructure and that for recreational walking SCB is a far better way to go. She likened it to traffic congestion in that getting people to work from home, change their hours, bike, etc. is easier and cheaper than building wider roads. She has a valid point. Ms. Beaudet followed up with Manager of Active Transportation Laura Dierenfield, who

emailed me to offer assistance. Mr. Fletcher and I will be talking with the ANA EC about next steps should he want to pursue it further.

As always, please contact me with questions, concerns, or if you are interested in getting involved with the safety committee. You can become a block captain, help remove graffiti, patrol, help plan and run the TAKE10 CPR training next February, and more! I'm sorry we will not be having the TAKE10 class this year, but look for it next February in celebration of Heart Healthy Month.

Our APD District Representative:
Officer Josh Metteauer #5357
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Region 1 (Baker) District Representatives
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joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov ❖



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Letters to the Editor:

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Allandale One of the Best Neighborhoods in Austin for Young Professionals!

Movoto Real Estate recently published the top five best Austin neighborhoods for young professionals, and Allandale made the list at number four. The top five were chosen by Austin local Bryn Huntpalmer. Allandale made the list because of its healthy mix of single-family homes as well as condos for those wanting a low maintenance lifestyle. For more see <http://www.movoto.com/austin-tx/best-neighborhoods-in-austin-for-young-professionals/>. ❖

Sunshine Community Gardens Plant Sale Saturday, March 5

It's time for the annual Sunshine Community Gardens plant sale! This is the largest nonprofit organic plant sale in Texas, featuring 30,000 hard to find spring vegetable and verb plants. Over 82 percent of the plants are certified organic and grown by Gabriel Valley Farms in Georgetown. Please come by Saturday, March 5, starting at 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. The address is 4814 Sunshine Drive, Austin Texas 78757, between North Lamar and Burnet Road at 45th Street. <http://www.sunshinecommunitygarden.org/> ❖

Northwest Rec Center Annual Kite Workshop, Saturday, February 27

All neighbors are invited to join the annual kite workshop put on by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Northwest Rec Center. Fly on by and learn how to make a kite for the annual Zilker Kite Festival while enjoying vibrant live music in the Park, and popcorn. Each child will receive a kite to decorate and fly. Admission is Free! Join us at Northwest Rec Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin TX 78757. ❖

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Age Friendly Austin—A Plan of Action

Carla Penny

In 2012, under Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Austin joined the World Health Organization's network of Age Friendly Cities. This designation came in part as a recommendation by the Mayor's Task Force on Aging, which had been convened to study the impact of and make recommendations for preparing the city to accommodate the growing aging community. Central Texas was then and remains today among the fastest-growing areas in the United States for people between 55 and 64. Central Texas is also the second-fastest growing region for people 65 and over.

So what is "Age Friendly"?

The World Health Organization defines age friendly as "an inclusive and accessible urban environment that promotes active ageing" and identifies eight domains of city life that might influence the health and quality of life of older people:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings;
2. Transportation;
3. Housing;
4. Social participation;
5. Respect and social inclusion;
6. Civic participation and employment;
7. Communication and information;
8. Community support and health services.

Since 2012, the mayor's Task Force has accomplished some major milestones, including forming the Austin Commission on Seniors. Austin, however, lacks a plan for accomplishing the recommendations outlined in the Task Force report, which puts Austin at risk for losing the "Age Friendly" designation and causes us to lag behind other U.S. cities in the network.

In September 2015, Austin's Commission on Seniors formed a work group with representatives of the Commission,

AARP Texas, AustinUP and other local service organizations to bring forward an action plan for implementing the Task Force recommendations. The plan will likely be presented to Council and made public early this summer.

While the focus of the workgroup, Commission, and AARP is age-friendliness for people as they grow older, it is important to recognize that strategies within the eight domains that enhance the lives of older people also make the city more appealing and livable for younger people. Good public transportation options, walkability, reasonably affordable housing, access to parks, etc. benefit all ages, enable inter-generational engagement and ultimately will strengthen our community. ❖

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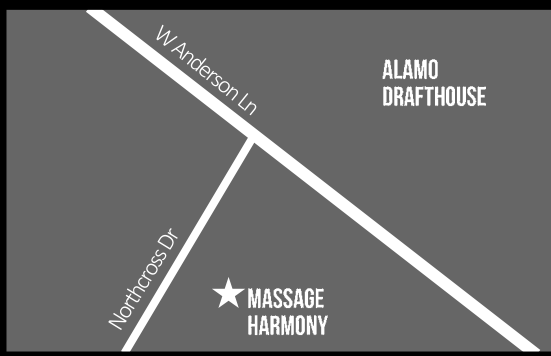
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Pet Talk: It's Not Jealousy!

Cheryl Silver

This article appeared in a previous issue of "The Allandale Neighbor."

This article addresses behavior very commonly seen when an additional dog is added to the family or when people see tension between their dogs when a person is around. It is often interpreted as jealousy, but this is a misunderstanding of what is actually going on.

Dogs will guard things, places, people, food— you name it. Whatever it is, some dogs will find a way to make an issue out of it.

One of the most common things to happen when a new dog comes into the household is guarding of the people/person that the dogs feel is in charge of things. The original dog may start guarding family members and/or the new dog might latch onto people in the household and "guard" them.

This is what the guarding scenario looks like:

The dog who is guarding will put himself close to the person, and when another dog approaches, the guarding dog will snarl, snark or do something similarly "tacky." The dog is sending the message, "this powerful person is MINE! Back off, buddy." You are being treated like the dog's personal platinum credit card!

Or, the new dog may be standing close to you, and one of the original dogs will approach with the clear message that they are not happy with the new dog standing so close to you.

In either situation, the wisest thing to do is refuse to be treated like an object that any dog can claim. You do this by turning and walking away from all dogs calmly, without saying a single word. Do this the instant you see any hint of "tacki-

ness." This could be just at the sight of a mohawk or a change in posture of either dog. It is critical that you say nothing and keep your hands off the dogs— they should get absolutely no attention for this unpleasant behavior.

This can get pretty exhausting —moving away from the dogs— because you need to do it if you are sitting down, too. That means you will find yourself getting up all the time and moving. I find that when this kind of nonsense is going on, sitting at the dining room table works well.

Soon the dogs will figure out that their "tackiness" gets them absolutely no attention from you at all— and there is no payoff.

At some point you may notice that there is a change in attitude. A dog will be near you and another approaches and

Continued on page 22

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Pet Talk: It's Not Jealousy!

Continued from page 21

they manage to remain civil. Yippee— but, don't get too excited or effusive in your behavior. Just tell them calmly, with a pleasant expression, "what good dogs, that's nice ... good dogs." Then, calmly remove yourself and recognize that you have just witnessed the beginning of civil behavior between the dogs.

Using this approach consistently will work and soon you will find the dogs becoming buddies, and the need to guard you will disappear.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about working with your dog. There is no charge for my services. My payoff is seeing improved relations and understanding between people and their dogs. My email address is csilver2@austin.rr.com. ❖

Shoal Creek Forum Series

Carolina Treviño

You're invited to join Shoal Creek Conservancy on February 23 and March 1 for the Shoal Creek Forum meetings on flood issues.

Last Memorial Day, Shoal Creek burst from its banks and turned Lamar into a river. This flood put many lives at risk and caused millions of dollars in damage. What can we learn from this flood and other past floods on Shoal Creek? What causes these floods to be so intense? What is the City's response when floods like last May's occur? And how can we minimize the risk in the future?

These questions and more will be discussed at the first two events of the Shoal Creek Conservancy's Shoal Creek Forum Series. The Forum is a new series of 1-hour lunchtime meetings in partnership with the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department to discuss critical creek issues with subject experts and the community. Lunch will be provided by Whole Foods Market at the first event on February 23.

Would you like to attend? Tickets are free but limited, so get yours now before they run out!

Shoal Creek Forum—Flooding (Downtown)

Lunch will be provided by Whole Foods Market

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM

Cirrus Logic Conference Center - 700 West Ave. Austin

Shoal Creek Forum—Flooding (North)

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM

Northwest Recreation Center, Classroom 1 - 2913 Northland Dr. Austin

If you have any questions about the event, feel free to contact Joanna Wolaver at joanna@shoalcreekconservancy.org. ❖

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You're Killing Me Smalls! The Sandlot Comes to NW Park, Thursday, March 10

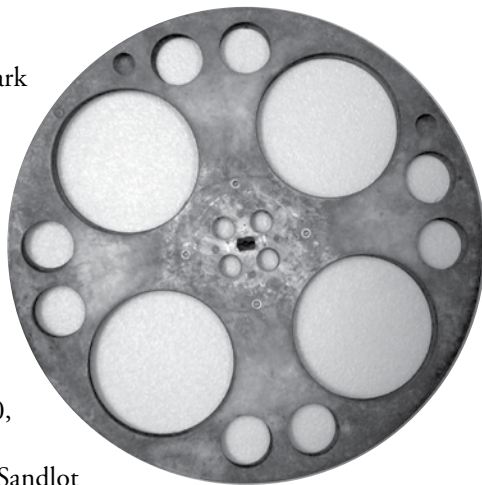
Movies in the Park

is a series of free films brought to you by the Austin Parks Foundation in partnership with Alamo Drafthouse. And they are coming to Northwest Park!

Thursday, March 10, at dusk, next to the baseball fields, The Sandlot will be shown. Just bring your

blanket or lawn chair, some snacks, and even your dog. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, glass and styrofoam are not permitted in the park. Popcorn will be provided, free, from the ANA EC!

The Sandlot is rated PG and runs 1 hour 40 minutes. Join us Thursday, March 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (rain date April 14). For more on this movie, and the others happening in parks around Austin, see: <http://austinparks.org/our-events/movies/>. ❖



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